

## Message Text

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14

ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 COME-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 IO-12 EB-11 INT-08 CG-00 GAC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

RSR-01 /126 W

----- 020945

P R 211556 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6670

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

CINCUSNAVEUR

USDOCSAFNORTH

COMICEDEFOR

SECDEF

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y ( CORRECT TO ADD " SUBJECT" LINE)

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, IC, UK, US, NO

SUBJ: GROWING NORWEGIAN INTEREST IN ICELANDIC SITUATION

REF: REYKJAVIK 551 AND 557

BEGIN SUMMARY: OSLO NEWSPAPERS TODAY GAVE CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO THE WORSENING DISPUTE BETWEEN ICELAND AND THE UK, AND THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS OFFICIALLY URGED BOTH PARTIES TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS. ONE NEWSPAPER STORY REPORTS " RUMORS" THAT THE US WILL GIVE THREE PATROL SHIPS TO ICELAND. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TO DENY THIS STORY. END SUMMARY.

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1. MOST OF TODAY' S NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF THE ICELANDIC-UK SITUATION WAS STRAIGHT- FORWARD REPORTING OF THE EVENTS OF THE WEEKEND. ONE PAPER, HOWEVER, THE TABLOID VERDENS GANG -- NORWAY' S SECOND LARGEST SELLING DAILY -- REPORTS " PER-SISTENT RUMORS ( WHICH) HAVE NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY DENIED... THAT THE UNITED STATES IS GIVING ICELAND" THREE COASTAL PATROL SHIPS " AS A GESTURE OF THANKS FOR REYKJAVIK' S ACTING AS HOST CITY FOR THE SUMMIT MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENTS NIXON AND POMPIDOU ON MAY 31."

2. ONLY NORWEGIAN STATE TELEVISION HAS QUERIED US THUS FAR ABOUT THE STORY, AND WE HAVE SIMPLY SAID " NO COMMENT." BUT WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO BE ABLE TO DENY THE REPORT -- AT LEAST TO THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT -- IF , AS WE ASSUME, IT IS NOT TRUE , LEST THE STORY SOMEHOW MUDDY THE WATERS NOW SEPARATING THE FISHING DISPUTE AND THE IDF ISSUE IN THE MINDS OF NORWEGIAN OFFICIALS. ON THE IDF QUESTION, THERE IS LITTLE SYMPATHY FOR THE ICELANDERS AMONG NORWEGIANS, BUT ON THE FISHING DISPUTE THE NORWEGIANS ARE CONSIDERABLY MORE AMBIVALENT. IN THE STATEMENT PUT OUT BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OVER THE WEEKEND, THE MINISTRY' S PRESS CHIEF TIM GREVE " REGRETTED" THE WORSENING OF THE DISPUTE, SYMPATHIZED WITH ICELAND' S EFFORTS TO PRESERVE ITS NATIONAL RESOURCES, AND URGED AN EARLY RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS IN THE DISPUTE. THE FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNED FROM CHINA MAY 20 AND THE NORWEGIAN CABINET IS REPORTEDLY GOING TO DISCUSS THE FISHING DISPUTE ON MAY 22.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TO DENY THE VERDENS GANG STORY THAT THE US IS PROVIDING PATROL SHIPS TO ICELAND.  
CROWE

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NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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**Subject:** GROWING NORWEGIAN INTEREST IN ICELANDIC SITUATION  
**TAGS:** MOPS, PBOR, IC, NO, UK, US, n/a  
**To:** BONN  
CINCUSNAVEUR  
COA  
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